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DAYS AFTER REMOVAL, ALTMAN IS BACK AS OPENAI CEO ALONG WITH NEW BOARD

The new board members are former Salesforce co-CEO Bret Taylor, ex-US Treasury Secretary Larry Summers and Quora CEO Adam D'Angelo

NADELLA WELCOMES THE NEW DEVELOPMENT

OpenAI's previous board of directors, which included D'Angelo, had refused to give specific reasons for why it fired Sam Altman last Friday. Microsoft, which has invested billions in OpenAI, quickly moved to hire Altman. After he decided to return to OpenAI, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella welcomed it, saying: "We are encouraged by the changes to the OpenAI board"

WILL BOLSTER TIES WITH MICROSOFT: ALTMAN

- Announcing his decision through social media platform X, Altman said he would build on OpenAI's strong partnership with Microsoft
- As for OpenAI's short-lived interim CEO Emmett Shear, the second interim CEO in the days since Altman's ouster, he posted on X that he was "deeply pleased by this result, after 72 very intense hours of work"

770

OPENAI EMPLOYEES CALLED FOR REMOVAL OF THE BOARD THAT FIRED ALTMAN

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Rescue of 41 tunnel workers hours away

The trapped men to be strapped on to small-wheeled stretchers and pulled out through 800-mm pipes using rope

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

RESCUE of the 41 trapped labourers from the collapsed under-construction Silkyara tunnel appeared hours away on Wednesday evening with 48 metres of escape passage being created, out of the 57 metres stretch of debris to reach the workers, who have been stuck inside for the past 11 days.

According to sources, the workers will be pulled out of the tunnel on small-wheeled stretchers using a rope, through the 800-mm pipes that have been insereted horizontally.

Ambulances are on standby and a team of doctors is at the site. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami is also expected to reach the site to welcome the workers.

Ambulances on standby near the Silkyara tunnel in Uttarkashi district, where the rescue operation of 41 workers trapped inside the tunnel is under way | PTI

The labourers will be taken directly to the Chinyalisaur government hospital, 32 km away from the tunnel, where special arrangements have been made for their inspection and treatment as required.

"The labourers will likely be kept in isolation for a day or two after emerging from the tunnel," said Dr Rohit Gondwal, a psychiatrist who has been camping in Silkyara and has interacted with some of the workers through camera.

Dr Gondwal spoke to two experienced labourers referred to as 'Negi ji' and 'Gabbar', who have faced similar accidents in the past. "Individuals like Gabbar and Negi have played a key role in keeping the morale of the labourers high in the tunnel," Dr Gondwal said.

Giving an update on the progress of the multi-agency rescue efforts, in-charge of the operation Colonel Deepak Patil told this newspaper that so far, nine pipes have been drilled horizontally up to 48 metres. Only two more pipes are to be inserted but the process takes time. "Each pipe must be strongly welded together and allowed to cool before continuing," he explained.

Around 200 personnel from the National Disaster Response Force, State Disaster Response Force, paramilitary forces, Air Force, state police, and revenue department have been deployed at the site to help with the rescue mission.

Bengaluru firm to help in rescue operations

BENGALURU: A Bengaluru-based company, Squadrone Infra and Mining Pvt Ltd, which specialises in aerial intelligence for mineral exploration, mining, tunnelling and infrastructure solutions, has joined the rescue efforts to pull out 41 labourers who have been trapped at a tunnel at Silkyara in Uttarakashi since November 12. P10

KHALISTANI TERROR

US foiled 'Indian' plot to kill Pannun: Report

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

HOURS after a media report claimed the US foiled an alleged Indian attempt to bump off Khalistani terrorist and founder of the banned Sikhs For Justice Gurpatwant Singh Pannun on its soil, the foreign office here said India takes US inputs seriously.

"India takes such inputs seriously since it impinges on our own national security interests as well. During the course of recent discussions on the India-US security cooperation, the US side shared some inputs pertaining to the nexus between organised criminals, gun runners, terrorists and others. The inputs are a cause of concern for both countries and they decided to take necessary and follow up action," said Arindam Bagchi, MEA spokesperson.

Pannun had warned Sikhs to not take any Air India flight to India on November 19, the birth anniversary day of former prime minister Indira Gandhi.

The story broken by London's *Financial Times* claimed the US had protested India's alleged involvement in the plot to kill Pannun. The protest came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Washington in June, it added.

On June 18 this year, Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar was gunned down by unknown assailants in Canada. After Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau blamed India for the murder, bilateral relations nosedived with both sides expelling a diplomat each and India suspending visa services. India on Wednesday resumed e-visas to Canadians.

NIA raids on 14 locations in Punjab, Haryana dists

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

THE National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday carried out searches at 14 locations in Punjab and Haryana as part of its continuing investigations into the attacks on the Consulate General of India at San Francisco in the US in March this year by Khalistani elements.

Sources said the NIA teams raided different places in Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Moga, Patiala, Gurdaspur and SAS Nagar districts in Punjab. In Haryana, they searched a few premises in Kurukshetra and Yamunanagar districts. The teams seized digital data on the accused persons, along with other incriminating documents.

On September 21, the NIA had released photos of 10 suspects in the attack on the San Francisco mission and crowd sourced information about them. The probe agency has already identified certain individuals who were part of the plot. They include both Indian and foreign nationals.

On the intervening night of March 18 and 19 this year, some pro-Khalistan entities trespassed into the San Francisco mission and tried to burn it down. On the same day, slogan-shouting Khalistani supporters broke through the mission's makeshift security barriers, put up two so-called Khalistani flags in the Consulate premises and damaged the building besides assaulting officials.

2 Army officers among 4 killed in encounter

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

FOUR Army personnel, including two captains, were killed during a gunfight with a group of militants in Kalakote forest area in the border district of Rajouri in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday. Two others were injured, officials said. The encounter took place during a joint operation of the Army and police in Bajimaal area of Dharmsal in Kalaikote-Gulabgarh forest area of Rajouri in the morning. The joint team was deployed after receiving specific intelligence inputs about the presence of a group of militants there.

A security official said the troops came under heavy fire. "The militants fired from the automatic weapons. The fire was returned, triggering an encounter," he said. Additional troops have been rushed to the forest area to tighten the siege and prevent the militants from escaping. Helicopters, quadcopters with night vision, drones, and sniffer dogs have been deployed to track down the militants. "The Special Forces, who have been air dropped in the forest area, are also assisting troops in the ongoing operation against militants," the security official said. Sources said 3-4 heavily armed militants are believed to be trapped in the gunfight. "The gunfight was going on when reports last poured in," they said.

An Army spokesperson said contact was established with the terrorists on Wednesday and intense fight ensued. "The terrorists have been injured and surrounded. Operations are in progress amidst acts of valour and sacrifice by our bravehearts in trying to prevent collateral damage to women and children in the highest traditions of the Army," he said.

Original caste report missing: BC panel chief

The hard copy of the report with the then member-secretary Anbu Kumar's signature is missing.

Jayaprakash Hegde, chairman, Backward Classes Commission

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

THE original hard copy of the Socio-Economic and Education Survey, popularly known as the caste census report, has gone missing, confirmed Backward Classes Commission chairman Jayaprakash Hegde.

Though *TNIE* had reported on October 6 that the report had disappeared mysteriously, Hegde had denied it. This is the first official confirmation that the Kantharaj Commission report with the signature of the then commission member-secretary has been missing from the commission office.

The report was earlier expected to be presented to the government on November 26, which was also the last day of Hegde at office as the commission chairman. But now, the government has extended his tenure by a month, which could also mean that the report submission too could be delayed.

CONTINUED ON: P4

BBMP collating BWSSB, Bescom details, sends msg

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

TO integrate property records with power and water supply connections for hassle-free services in future and to boost revenues through tax collection, the BBMP is sending out SMS alerts to property owners to keep their documents ready.

A BBMP official said revenue officers will collect details like khata number, property tax receipt, revenue record number of Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) and Bangalore Water Supply and Sewage Board (BWSSB) and also click photos of the property.

"Properties will be mapped and digitised. The integration of RR numbers and property documents will help avoid confusion for other civic agencies when a property is sold. Auto triggers will be sent to Bescom and BWSSB officials when the property is sold and the owner's name changes," he said.

This initiative to digitise details of properties completely is being taken to bring nearly 30-40 lakh properties under the BBMP tax net, boosting revenues. "This can address issues like impersonation, fake documents and others," he added.

CONTINUED ON: P2

EXPRESS READ

KEA to hold re-exam to recruit PSIs on Dec 23

Bengaluru: The Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) has stated that the re-exam for the post of 545 police sub-inspectors will be conducted in Bengaluru on December 23. P5

Rohit unlikely to play T20Is in future?

New Delhi: India captain Rohit Sharma is unlikely to play T20 Internationals anymore and had discussed his future in the shortest format before the World Cup, BCCI sources said.

Modi welcomes deal to release Israeli hostages

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi, while welcoming a deal to release 50 Israeli hostages, during his address at the virtual G20 summit on Wednesday, asserted that killings of innocents, especially children and women, is not acceptable.

He made seven observations on the Israel-Hamas conflict, which included zero tolerance on terrorism, expediting humanitarian aid, need for regional stability and pursuing dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the conflict. "When I proposed this virtual summit, there was no anticipation of what the global situation would be. New challenges have arisen. The situation of insecurity and instability in West Asia is a matter of concern for all... The death of civilians is condemnable," he said.

The summit was attended by 22 heads of government, though some leaders were not present. Russian President Vladimir Putin, Canadian PM Justin Trudeau, Japanese PM Fumio Kishida, Australian PM Anthony Albanese took part, while Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden skipped it.

In his address, Putin launched a broadside over the Gaza conflict. "Russia has never refused peace negotiations in Ukraine. I understand that this is war and the loss of life cannot but shock. But isn't the extermination of civilian population in Gaza shocking? Isn't it shocking that doctors have to perform operations on children without anesthesia? Isn't it shocking that the UNSC said that Gaza has turned into a huge children's cemetery?" he said.

4-DAY GAZA TRUCE BEGINS

- 4-day Israel-Hamas ceasefire begins at 1.30 pm IST on Thursday
- 130 Palestinian women and children to be freed in exchange for 50 Israeli hostages
- Truce could be extended by a day for each additional release of 10 Israeli hostages
- Hundreds of trucks carrying humanitarian aid and fuel would be allowed to enter Gaza
- Egypt, Qatar, US helped mediate deal between Israel & Hamas | P12